

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183080

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE 183080 TOSEC 080315 ACTION USDEL
SECRETARY INFO ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI 02 AUG 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183080 TOSEC 080315

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN'S CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY

1. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY AUGUST 1 TO PRESS INVITATION FOR PRESIDENT TO VISIT PAKISTAN REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT VISIT TO INDIA TAKES PLACE. NOTING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, THE AMBASSADOR MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. GOP AND PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR DEEP
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FEELINGS OF APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION FOR THE PRESIDENT

AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. POSSIBILITY THAT THE VISIT MIGHT NOT TAKE PLACE WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTING.

B. THE GOP WOULD NOT PRESUME TO SUGGEST THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT VISIT INDIA AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, IF BECAUSE OF INDIA'S INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, THE PRESIDENT CANNOT VISIT INDIA, THE TRIP TO PAKISTAN SHOULD NEVERTHELESS GO FORWARD. GIVEN THE WAY THE INDIAN PRESS HAD PROMOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OCTOBER 1974 VISIT TO NEW DELHI AS U.S. RATIFICATION OF INDIAN DOMINANCE IN SOUTH ASIA, THE PAKISTANI PUBLIC AND PRESS WOULD REGARD POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE OF INDIAN DIFFICULTIES AS CONFIRMATION THAT THE U.S. VIEWED PAKISTAN AS AN ADJUNCT OF

INDIA. WHILE THE GOP FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT A VISIT TO NEW DELHI CANNOT BE AGAINST PAKISTAN'S INTERESTS, PUBLIC OPINION COULD CONCLUDE OTHERWISE.

C. IN THE CONTEXT OF PAKISTAN'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND ITS ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ISLAMABAD UNDERTAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRIP TO PEKING WOULD BE FITTING, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF A VISIT TO NEW DELHI.

2. IN REPLY, THE ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FOR HIS TRAVEL OR ON COUNTRIES HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT. THE ACTING SECRETARY ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS AND WOULD PRESENT THEM TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION. INGERSOLL
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